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21 JAN 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Logistics

Dear Van:

We had best be very careful how we handle this matter. First, because of its significance, secondly, because of the distribution the document is bound to have received and, thirdly, because of the diversification of responsibility concerned; i.e., the Operating Components, GSA, and the Offices of Logistics and Security.

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Please talk it out with [redacted] and see if he can assign a project officer to do all the necessary research and report writing. One man can, perhaps, handle this chore. We want to know, on any of the reported deficiencies for any center, if the Safety Staff has previously raised issues they are now bringing up, and whether they previously coordinated on anything they are now complaining about. Lastly, inasmuch as these are GSA-operated buildings and the basic fire prevention rests with GSA, have GSA safety or fire investigators noted any of these deficiencies and made any recommendations. We then want to see if any of these matters are contained in the long-winded report we recently received from the Safety Staff people on old safety recommendations that have not been implemented. [redacted] is chairing a group working on that problem. We then want our engineers to address themselves to any technical recommendations with which they might take exception to the Safety Officers' recommendations. Lastly, but obviously equally important, we want the development of a plan and schedule to bottle up the agreed deficiencies.

I am going to phone Oz and tell him this report is in and make sure he reads it. We may well get into an area of conflict with Security on this matter, but I want that conflict to be at the working level. We cannot take this matter lightly because, God forbid, if a disaster should happen to one of these centers and significant records should be destroyed, we will not be in a very healthy position.

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John F. Blake
Director of Logistics

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